

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

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FODAG

FOLLOWING REPEAT GENEVA 4480 SENT ACTION USINFO VOA SECSTATE
USUN NEW YORK MAR 23.
QUOTE UNCLAS USIS/GENEVA 04480

FOR IBS, IPS/PE, IPS/PO, IOP/M, IEU

UNCTAD WHEAT (CLEARED BY USDEL)

GENEVA, MARCH 23 -- A SIX-WEEK CONFERENCE AIMED AT DRAWING
UP A NEW WHEAT AGREEMENT AND A NEW AND ENLARGED FOOD AID
CONVENTION HAS WOUND UP WITHOUT AGREEMENT.

CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN ARTHUR DUNKEL OF SWITZERLAND SAID THE
SESSION -- STAGED UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UNITED NATIONS
CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (UNCTAD) -- WAS "NOT
A FAILURE," SINCE IT PERMITTED SOME 50 COUNTRIES TO
EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS, BUT NEITHER COULD IT BE CALLED A
SUCCESS.

AMBASSADOR DUNKEL AND EXECUTIVE SECRETARY JEAN-HENRI PAROT-
TE OF THE INTERNATIONAL WHEAT COUNCIL TOLD A JOINT NEWS
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CONFERENCE MARCH 23 THAT LACK OF AGREEMENT COULD NOT BE
BLAMED ON DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE
EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY.

BOTH SAID THAT THE MAIN DIFFICULTY LAY IN THE FACT THAT
MANY PARTICIPANTS HAD "NOT DONE THEIR HOMEWORK" SUFFICIENT-
LY BEFORE TACKLING THE IMMENSELY COMPLICATED QUESTIONS OF

THE WORLD TRADE IN WHEAT.

IN ADDITION TO TRYING TO DRAW UP A NEW WHEAT CONVENTION TO REPLACE THE PRESENT ONE, STABILIZING THE WORLD MARKET THROUGH A SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONALLY COORDINATED STOCKS, PARTICIPANTS ALSO SOUGHT TO PRODUCE A NEW FOOD AID CONVENTION TO INCREASE MINIMUM PLEDGES OF FOOD AID FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

IN THIS EFFORT, AMBASSADOR DUNKEL AND MR. PAROTTE SAID, ONLY THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA "LAID THEIR CARDS ON THE TABLE" WITH OFFERS OF ENLARGED CONTRIBUTIONS OF CEREALS. THE UNITED STATES ANNOUNCED ITS INTENTION TO INCREASE ITS PLEDGE FROM 1.9 MILLION METRIC TONS UNDER THE PRESENT CONVENTION TO 4.5 MILLION TONS IN A NEW AGREEMENT.

THE CONFERENCE SET UP A 12-NATION INTERIM COMMITTEE TO CONTINUE TO PREPARE A DRAFT TEXT TO REPLACE THE INTERNATIONAL WHEAT AGREEMENT OF 1971, WHICH HAS BEEN EXTENDED, AND ASKED UNCTAD SECRETARY-GENERAL GAMANI COREA TO RECONVENE THE CONFERENCE BY SEPTEMBER.

AMERICAN OFFICIALS AT THE CLOSING MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE SAID ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE DALE HATHAWAY, WHO REPRESENTED THE UNITED STATES HERE, HAD ALREADY RETURNED TO WASHINGTON AND WOULD LIKELY ISSUE A COMMENT ON THE UNCLASSIFIED

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CONFERENCE OUTCOME FROM THERE.

END HAFREY UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

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